

San Marcos Free Press.

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PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

CURRENT TOPICS.

THE Executive Council of the new National party have recently been in session at New York, for the purpose of devising plans for the thorough and systematic organization of the party in the States, preparatory for the fall campaign. It is the intention of the Council, the Secretary said, to make a vigorous fight next fall in all the States, and a desperate and concentrated effort will be made to at least obtain the balance of power in all those States whose Legislatures are to elect United States Senators next winter. They feel sanguine, he said, of being successful in the States of Connecticut, Maine, New York, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, California and Oregon. The weak point in their organization, he said, is in the South, and the cause of that weakness is the poverty of the people and the want of money to carry on an effective campaign.

REPRESENTATIVE MORGAN, of Missouri, has introduced a bill declaring the introduction of Texas, Mexican or Indian cattle into Missouri, Kansas or Illinois from March 1 to November 1 of each year, an offense punishable with fine or imprisonment. It provides for bringing legal proceedings in the United States Courts to restrain such movements at proper times, and is aimed to take the place of the legislation of the State of Missouri, that was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, on the ground that it interfered with the supreme power of Congress to legislate on the subject.

REPRESENTATIVE SCHLEICHER has introduced a bill authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to issue, in sums not exceeding in the aggregate \$40,000,000, coupon or registered perpetual bonds, redeemable only by purchase in open market, interest payable semi-annually in coin of the present standard value at a rate of 4 per cent. per annum, their proceeds to be applied solely to the purpose of erecting public buildings for the use of the Government. The bill appropriates for public buildings: At Atlanta, Ga., \$100,000; Chicago, \$1,500,000; Cincinnati, \$325,000; Evansville, \$30,000; Grand Rapids, Mich., \$50,000; Little Rock, \$150,000; Memphis, \$400,000; Nashville, \$250,000; St. Louis, \$1,600,000; State, War and Navy Departments building, \$5,000,000. The bill also makes provision for the extension of the Library of Congress, and the appropriation of \$400,000 for building for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

PRESIDENT HAYES is represented by his intimate friends as not appearing in the least disturbed by the proposed investigation into the alleged election frauds in Florida and Louisiana, of which he says he never had the slightest knowledge other than the published accusations on the Democratic side. He thinks it no more than right that the frauds, if any were committed, should be exposed, but is satisfied that such exposure would not invalidate his title to the Presidential chair, as this had been settled and declared by a commission constituted under a solemn act of Congress.

ANOTHER railroad bill has been introduced by Representative Schleicher to aid the construction of a "military, commercial and postal rail highway" from military headquarters at San Antonio, to the Rio Grande, at Laredo, the company to receive \$12,000 per mile of road constructed and equipped.

THE Pennsylvania Republican State Convention, held at Harrisburg on the 15th, nominated Gen. Henry M. Hoyt, of Luzerne, for Governor. The platform unconditionally opposes free trade and urges Government protection of home industries; recommends National and State legislation to prevent unfair discrimination in rates of freight and transportation by chartered companies; demands that the General Government efficiently protect Southern Republicans in the maintenance of their Constitutional privileges; and finally heartily endorses the administration of Gov. Hartranft. The platform entirely ignores the National Administration.

SECRETARY SHERMAN, having been interviewed regarding the Potter resolution of investigation, stated that so far as the proposed investigation in Louisiana was directed at him he had no anxiety whatever, as he had never written any letters or

sent any telegrams which he was not perfectly willing should be inspected by the House of Representatives and the people at large. He added: "I devoted much time and careful attention to the subject, and I am firm in the conviction that the result, as declared in Louisiana, falls short of doing justice to the Republican ticket."

THE Republican Congressional Committee have issued an address to the public, in which they charge that the adoption by the House of the Potter resolution is the first step in a deliberately formed plan for the expulsion of the President from office, and in proof thereof cite the ruling of the Speaker of the House, who declared the resolution was a privileged question solely upon the ground that it involved the question of the rightful occupancy of the Executive Chair.

PRESIDENT HAYES, in speaking of the recent proceedings instituted by the Democrats in the House, is reported to have expressed himself as follows:

Whatever the result of an investigation might be, whatever disclosures might result therefrom, he entertained no fear that anything could be brought home to him. If any person made any promises in his behalf, or entered into any bargains, they did so without his knowledge, and he hoped their acts would be exposed. The President regards the action of Southern Democrats in supporting the investigation scheme as ungrateful in the highest degree, irrespective of other considerations. When he assumed the Executive office he found the South, or at least a large portion of it, distracted and torn asunder by political strife almost bordering on revolution. He gave the South peace. South Carolina, and especially Louisiana, were restored to the rule of the native population, and the carpet-bagger ceased to be an element in Southern politics. The President, of course, acted from a strict sense of public duty, and claims no reward at the hands of the South for doing what he was bound in conscience to do, but he can not avoid being witness to the ingratitude evinced by the representatives of the South to the man who, above all others, has had their welfare and happiness in common with the rest of the Union sincerely at heart. With reference to his title the President conceded that it could be contested, but there was only one way to test the question, and that was by a writ of quo warranto, which was the only remedy provided by law, and such writ was a prerogative writ and not obtainable as a matter of right, but only in the discretion of the Court, and he doubted whether any Court would grant it. As to his impeachment being ordered by the House, the President has not the remotest idea that such an occurrence is even among the possibilities. The President is fully alive to the exigencies that may arise, and will see to it that the public is maintained and the laws are enforced at whatever cost. He proposed to follow the policy already marked out by his Administration, and will take no backward step.

A TOTAL eclipse of the sun takes place on the 29th of July next, under such circumstances as to present opportunities that occur scarcely once in a generation for the study of some of the most interesting phenomena with which astronomers have to do. The path of the totality of this eclipse runs diagonally across the center of the United States from Montana to Texas, and is somewhere about 140 miles wide. The Naval Observatory has asked Congress for an appropriation of \$8,000 for the purpose of sending off seven expeditions, two of which it is designed to send to Montana, two to Texas, two to Colorado, and one to Wyoming, each to consist of three astronomers. The sum asked for is simply to pay traveling expenses and the cost of transporting and setting up the instruments in their temporary observatories, nothing being requested for salaries, and the most eminent astronomers will gladly volunteer their services for such an important occasion.

THE Ohio Legislature at its recent session passed a law reconstructing the Congressional districts of the State, the effect of which, taking the Presidential vote of 1876 as a basis, will give 13 Democrats to 7 Republicans, instead of 8 Democrats to 12 Republicans, as at present. Gen. Garfield is gerrymandered out of his old district into another having a hopeless Republican minority, and Representative Foster will be compelled to move his house across the street in the town where he resides in order to keep his residence in the Tenth District.

A RECENT Washington dispatch says that in the event of a declaration of hostilities between England and Russia, our Government will issue a proclamation of neutrality, and use every effort to enforce its provisions. In the Russo-Russian war such a proclamation was unnecessary, the interests involved in that conflict being so far removed from this country; in a Russo-British war events have demonstrated clearly that international complications of a serious character will arise if the United States does not proclaim its neutrality and enforce, as far as possible, a strict observ-

ance of the treaty of Washington, and fulfill other international obligations.

SECRETARY SHERMAN announced at a recent Cabinet meeting that the Syndicate had called for the remaining \$15,000,000 of 4 1/2 per cents., and now proposed to buy \$50,000,000 of the 4 per cents., with the option of taking \$100,000,000.

PERSONAL AND POLITICAL.

THE late Charles Morgan owned 170 miles of railroad, and over 20 steamships, whose employees and their families numbered over 8,000 persons. He endowed a seminary in his native village of Clinton, Connecticut, at a cost of \$200,000, providing in the deed that it should never be used for "political or sectarian purposes."

JAMES E. ANDERSON, Supervisor of Registration of East Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, at the last Presidential election, who is charged in the preamble to the investigation resolution introduced by Representative Potter with having fraudulently changed the result of said election, has written a letter to Mr. Potter denying the charges and challenging investigation of his official acts by any impartial tribunal.

GEN. THOMAS H. DAKIN, the noted rifle shot, and captain of the American rifle team, died suddenly on the 13th of heart disease.

COL. DEUFERT ROCHEREAU, well known for his heroic defense of Belfort during the Franco-German war, and member of the Chamber of Deputies, died suddenly at Paris on the 11th.

THE President has nominated Amos Smith, Jr., of Cincinnati, Collector of Internal Revenue for the First District of Ohio, vice Weitzel, to be removed; Gustavus St. Gem, Surveyor of Customs at St. Louis; John H. Smyth, of North Carolina, to be Minister Resident and Consul-General at Liberia.

SENATOR DON CAMERON has six children. The eldest is a handsome girl of 21, whose stepmother is only 19. Miss Cameron owns a farm in her own right, and manages the business successfully herself.

THE House Committee on Expenditures in the Department of State have agreed to report a resolution sustaining the charges against Bradford, Consul and Clerk to Shanghai.

GEN. FREMONT and family are living in Gen. Belknap's old house at Washington. He is trying to save something from the old wreck of the Memphis and El Paso Railroad.

THE marriage of Vinnie Ream, the sculptor, to Lieut. Hoxie, Chief Engineer of the District of Columbia, is announced to take place on the 28th of May.

FUNERAL services in memory of the late Judge Chisholm, son and daughter, who were killed a year ago in Kemper County, Miss., were held in Washington on the 19th. Mrs. Chisholm having caused to be transferred to that city for burial the remains of her husband and children. Bishop Haven pronounced a eulogy on the occasion.

MRS. HAYES and her little daughter accompanied Vice-President Wheeler on a visit to his home at Malone, N. Y., on the 13th, where they had a very pleasant reception by the townspeople.

SPENCER F. BAIRD, Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, has been elected Secretary, in place of Prof. Henry, deceased.

THE late Prof. Henry made 22 inventions and discoveries, not one of which he patented, preferring to leave the fruits of his science for all to profit by who would.

P. C. BEARD, a lawyer of Sparta, Ohio, has absconded, leaving liabilities amounting to \$40,000 and not a penny in the shape of assets.

Gen. J. M. BINKLEY, who drowned himself at Milwaukee on the 4th, was assistant Attorney-General under President Johnson and afterwards editor of the Milwaukee News. About a year ago he became suspicious of his wife, and made a stir in Chicago by challenging one of her friends to fight a duel. She then declared that he was insane, and that explanation of his conduct was generally accepted by people familiar with the circumstances. She went to live with her relatives in Knoxville, and he opened a law office in Milwaukee. His body was a few days since recovered from the lake.

THE Ohio Democratic State Convention will be held at Columbus on June 26.

HON. CHARLES G. WILLIAMS, formerly Member of Congress from the First Wisconsin District, a prominent Republican politician and a resident of Janesville in that State, died on the 18th at Catskill, N. Y., where he had gone on a brief visit.

MR. EDISON, who has within a twelve-month made his name a household word in the scientific, social and business world, was married in 1873 to Miss Mary Stillwell, of Newark, N. J. They have two children—a little boy four years old and a little girl aged two—nick-named "Dot" and "Dash," after the characters in the Morse alphabet.

MRS. VICTORIA C. WOODHULL has brought suit for libel against three prominent London journalists. The aggregate amount of damage her reputation has suffered at their hands is estimated by her at the modest sum of £20,000.

LATH NEWS ITEMS.

It is understood that the German Government has decided to decline the invitation from the United States to attend the International Coinage Congress.

The Dominion Government is taking energetic measures to repel the rumored Fenian invasion from the United States in case of a European war. Gun-boats have been ordered for service on the lakes and all the militia along the frontier have been supplied with ball cartridges.

It is reported that 600 persons have been killed by an earthquake at Cuz, Venezuela.

Okubo, Japanese Minister of the Interior, has been assassinated. The murderer was arrested.

The Cincinnati Musical Festival was opened on the evening of the 14th, and was in every way successful. The exercises included the dedication of the new Music Hall.

The recent cold snap caused considerable injury to fruit and vegetables in a large portion of the country.

Mrs. Flynn and her infant child were brutally murdered near Atoka, Indian Territory, on the 10th. Her husband is suspected of being the murderer. The family were on their way to Coffeyville, Kansas, where Mrs. Flynn's father, Henry Meyers, resides.

Serious rioting has occurred at Blackburn and Burnley, England, caused by the failure of negotiations between the masters and striking operatives of the cotton mills. The residence of Col. Jackson, at Blackburn, Chairman of the Masters' Association, was burned to the ground, and an attempt was also made to burn Jackson's Mills. The residence of Alderman Hornby was partially wrecked, and the windows of all the mills in town demolished. A strong force of infantry from Preston arrived, and cleared the streets. Col. Jackson and wife barely escaped with their lives. One mill at Burnley was burned. The disaffected districts were strongly garrisoned by armed militia.

The Senate has ratified the treaty between France and the United States, providing for a convention at Paris the present summer with a view to the adoption of a metrical system of weights and measures.

The National Temperance Association met at Chicago on the 14th.

The St. Agnes Academy, a school for young ladies, at Memphis, Tenn., was burned to the ground on the morning of the 16th. There were 45 boarders in the school, all of whom lost their wearing apparel. The academy was owned and managed by the Sisters of St. Dominic, and was fully insured.

The Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad Company have effected a lease of the Keokuk and Des Moines Valley Railroad for a term of 45 years. The transfer will be made on the first of October next.

Joe Fore, the notorious St. Louis desperado, who was serving out a 10 years' sentence in the Missouri Penitentiary for an attempt to kill his wife, was set upon and stabbed to death by a fellow-convict named Billy Rogers, with whom he had quarreled, on the night of the 17th.

Brown Bowen was hanged at Gonzales, Texas, on the 17th, for the murder of Thomas Holderman. Bowen protested his innocence to the last, and charged the commission of the crime upon his brother-in-law, the notorious John Wesley Hardin.

The Dime Savings Bank of San Francisco has suspended, with deposits amounting to about \$45,000, and assets nominal. It turns out to have been a sham affair, not regularly incorporated, and its depositors were principally children. Joseph Davis & Co., a pawnbroking firm, were at the bottom of the swindle.

Frank Houlton, a well-to-do farmer of Hamilton, De Kalb County, Ind., was shot dead by a burglar whom he discovered in his house and attempted to capture on the night of the 17th. The murderer fled, but was subsequently arrested and proved to be a neighbor of Houlton's, who had recently been discharged from the Penitentiary.

The boiler of a portable engine in use on the farm of David Waggard, near New Frankfurt, Ind., exploded on the 18th, instantly killing John Waggard and John Jenkins.

It is believed the Pope, yielding to the advice of his physicians, will spend the summer at Monte Cassido, the celebrated Benedictine abbey of Naples.

Senor Zamacoena, the Mexican Minister at Washington, says his advisers from Mexico show that the revolutionists have utterly failed, and have no support whatever in any of the States of that Republic.

William B. Walls, the Prosecuting Attorney in the famous murder trial of Nancy E. Clem, in Indiana, has made a confession and allegation that \$1,000 in cash was paid to Judge Truman H. Palmer for granting the nolle prosequi by which she was set at liberty.

Mrs. Lydia Sherman, known as the "Connecticut Borgia," who confessed to the killing of nine persons by poison—two husbands and seven children—died in the State Penitentiary at Hartford on the 16th.

The banking house of Joseph Brown at Wilkesbarre, Pa., has closed its doors, causing great distress to the poorer classes, who are the principal depositors.

Forty lives were lost by the burning recently of the theater at Ahmednugger, in India.

From Richford, Vt., comes the news that 600 Fenians are drilling at Chasey, N. Y., 68 miles west of the first-named town. An invasion of Canada is thought to be the object, but the military are on the alert in the Dominion.

On the 20th, subscriptions to the 4 per cent. loan amounted to \$274,800.

An agency of the Nevada bank of San Francisco was opened on the 20th in New York.

At Corning, N. Y., on the 20th, the Corning, Cowanesque and Antrim railroad car-shops burned. Loss, \$30,000; insurance \$25,000.

A MAN named Tutin, who, during the Commune, rose from selling fuel to be General Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce, has returned from exile and stood his trial in Paris for illegally exercising public functions. He was sentenced to five years' imprisonment and ten years' loss of civil rights. M. Jules Favre defended him.

A French "Fighting Editor."

The following is from a French story in the Cornhill Magazine:

Barbelard, the sub-editor, was another literary curiosity, for he could only read with difficulty, and spelled no word in our language correctly save his own name. He had been appointed sub-editor by reason of his gigantic stature and his powers with all duelling weapons. An old sergeant of the Cent Gardes, who had been decorated for carrying off two Austrian colonels prisoners (one under each arm) in the Italian war, he stood six French feet in his socks, and had a pair of bristling red mustaches, which, when he was angry, looked as if they were aflame. It was Barbelard who assumed the responsibility of all the unsigned articles in the republican journal which employed him; and if any stranger came to ask for explanations about personalities, this imposing sub-editor was there to answer him in the correctest language of chivalry. He tendered no apologies or explanations, but would forthwith be ready to accept a challenge to fight next morning, early, with swords or pistols, according as might be most convenient. This often led to little dialogues, somewhat in the following fashion:

STRANGER (bouncing in furiously with the offending journal in his hand)—Sir, I want to see the man who wrote this article.

BARBELARD (rising with dignity from the sub-editorial seat, with a pipe in his mouth)—Young man, it's me as wrote that article. If you want to object, name your friends, and we'll have it out at daybreak.

STRANGER (growing civil)—Ah no. . . . I have merely come to renew my subscription to the paper. . . . What a warm day it is. . . . Good-bye morning. . . . (and exits).

Sometimes, however, a duel would arise, and then Barbelard always showed himself magnanimous in inflicting only flesh wounds—just mere flea-bites, as he called them, ripping up the arm for 12 inches or so, or carving off an insignificant little piece from the aggressor's calf. Barbelard had fought a round dozen of duels; but he owed another duty to his newspaper besides fighting, for he appeared in the correctional courts to answer all charges of attacking the Government, and under the sentences of imprisonment to which members of the staff were condemned. He had come to look upon the jail of Ste. Pelagie much as a second home, and was never sorry to go there for a few months, for he got double pay, unlimited allowance of tobacco, and excellent meals sent in daily from the restaurant at the expense of his employers so long as his incarceration lasted. Madame Barbelard, a little black-haired woman with despotic eyes, used affectionately to remark that she was always more pleased to see her husband in prison than out of it, for she knew then that he was not in mischief—risking his life in mortal combat, or drinking more absinthe than was good for him at the cafe. Prison-life was such a saving, too, for she could go every day to sit with Barbelard from 10 to 6, take her meals with him, and economize thereby the cost of marketing and kitchen fuel. She had no opinion of liberal Governments, ascribing their unwillingness in sending journalists to prison to sordid stinginess with the public purse.

It turned out that on this Christmas Day when he came to dine with us, honest Barbelard had one of his periodical scores of durance to wipe off, for his first remark to us, when he had shaken hands with Noemie and kissed the children, was about going to Ste. Pelagie on the morrow. "Three months for writing disrespectfully of the Senate," he said in his dry bass voice, and casting a sidelong glance of anticipation at the chiffonniere where the bottles stood.

"Yes, three whole months!" exclaimed little Madame Barbelard in glee. "I had some hopes it might have been six, for then we could have saved up enough to buy that pretty villa at Suresnes, on which I have set my heart."

"We'll make up for it by taking three more months in the summer, if all goes well, my dear," said Barbelard, good-humoredly; "too much off the reel isn't good; one likes to get out and breathe the air now and then."

"Ah, that's just it; and then battals of francs are spent in billiards and little glasses with your friends!" responded Madame Barbelard, tartly. "Think of what nice things we might do if you remained for a whole twelve-month under lock and key!"

LEMON PIE.—1 lemon, yolks of 2 eggs, 1 cup of sugar, 1 cup of water, 1 tablespoonful melted butter, 1 tablespoonful flour; beat the whites of 2 eggs until stiff; add 2 tablespoonfuls pulverized sugar for the top covering when baked.